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EXAMINER	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/922,646	SHIMIZU, MASAAKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joseph R. Pokrzywa	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *06 March 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-51* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-51* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *3/6/06*.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/6/06 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment was received on 3/6/06, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-51** are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The reference listed in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on 3/6/06 has been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449).

Claim Objections

4. **Claims 1, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, 32, 37, 45, 49, and 51** are objected to because of the following informalities:

In ***claim 1***, line 9, "the function status" should read "a function status";

in ***claim 11***, line 7, "the function status" should read "a function status";

in ***claim 16***, line 10, "the function status" should read "a function status";

in ***claim 21***, line 7, "the function status" should read "a function status";

in ***claim 26***, lines 5 and 6, "the function status" should read "a function status";

in ***claim 31***, line 7, "the function status" should read "a function status";

in ***claim 32***, line 8, "the function status" should read "a function status";

in ***claim 37***, line 10, "the function status" should read "a function status";

in ***claim 45***, line 9, "the function status" should read "a function status";

in ***claim 49***, lines 8 and 9, "the function status" should read "a function status"; and

in ***claim 51***, lines 8 and 9, "the function status" should read "a function status".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. **Claims 45, 49, and 51** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

7. ***Claim 45*** recites the limitation "said generating means" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

8. ***Claim 49*** recites the limitation "said generating means" in lines 7 and 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

9. ***Claim 51*** recites the limitation "said generating means" in lines 7 and 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

11. **Claims 1-51** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tabata (U.S. Patent Number 6,198,542).

Regarding ***claim 1***, Tabata discloses a print system (see Figs. 1-3) comprising an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions, wherein said image processing apparatus has a print function (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7), and an information processing apparatus for generating print data to be transferred to said image processing apparatus (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7), wherein said information processing apparatus acquires, from said image processing apparatus, information indicating the function status of the plurality of image processing functions, also executes a process of transferring the generated print data to said image processing apparatus and displays the function status of the plurality of image processing functions on a display unit based on the acquired information (column 7, line 13-column 9, line 25), and wherein, when a copy function included in the plurality of image processing functions

obtains the print function, said information processing apparatus displays information indicating that the copy function is being executed and information showing that the print function based on the generated print data cannot be executed (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 2***, Tabata discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that said information processing apparatus displays the function status of the plural image processing functions in a single image, based on the acquired information (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 3***, Tabata discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that said information processing apparatus is adapted to display, on the display unit, that the generated print data are being transferred to said image processing apparatus (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 4***, Tabata discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that said information processing apparatus discriminates, based on the acquired information, whether an image processing function of higher priority is executed in said image processing apparatus and, in case of a discrimination that a processing function of higher priority is executed, displays the function status of the image processing function of such high priority in an emphasized manner (column 7, line 13-column 9, line 25).

Regarding ***claim 5***, Tabata discloses the system discussed above in claim 4, and further teaches that said information processing apparatus, simultaneously with the emphasized display of the function status of the image processing function of higher priority, suspends the transfer

process of the print data to said image processing apparatus (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 13-column 9, line 25).

Regarding ***claim 6***, Tabata discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that said information processing apparatus acquires, from said image processing apparatus, the information indicating the function status of the plurality of image processing functions, for every transfer of the print data of a page (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 13-column 9, line 25).

Regarding ***claim 7***, Tabata discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that said image processing apparatus acquires information indicating the function status of the plurality of image processing functions, manages the acquired information in unified manner in a storage unit, and renews the information stored in said storage unit in response to a change in the function status (column 6, line 14-column 9, line 25).

Regarding ***claim 8***, Tabata discloses the system discussed above in claim 7, and further teaches that said image processing apparatus transmits the information stored in said storage unit to said information processing apparatus, in response to a print request from said information processing apparatus or to a request from said information processing apparatus for acquiring the information indicating the function status (column 6, line 14-column 9, line 25).

Regarding ***claim 9***, Tabata discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that said image processing functions include a print function for executing printing based on data from said information processing apparatus, a copy function and a facsimile function (column 4, line 65-column 6, line 61).

Regarding ***claim 10***, Tabata discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that said image processing apparatus comprises a print unit for executing printing, and said print is used by one of the plural image processing functions (column 4, line 65-column 6, line 61).

Regarding ***claim 11***, Tabata discloses an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions based on a print request from an information processing apparatus or an image processing request from an operation unit (see Figs. 1-3), said image processing apparatus comprising acquisition means for acquiring information indicating the function status of the plurality of image processing functions (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); management means for managing the information acquired by said acquisition means in unified manner in a storage means (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); and control means for monitoring the change in the function status indicated by the information acquired by the acquisition means and renewing the information stored in said storage means in response to a change in the function status (column 7, line 13-column 9, line 25), and transmission means for transmitting information to the information processing apparatus when a copy function included in the plurality of image processing functions uses the print function, the information indicating that the copy function is being executed and information showing that he print function based on the generated print data cannot be executed, such that the information can be displayed by the information processing apparatus (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 12***, Tabata discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 11, and further teaches of information means for informing said information processing apparatus of the information stored in said storage means, based on the print request from said information processing apparatus (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 13***, Tabata discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 11, and further teaches of an informing means for informing said information processing apparatus of the information stored in said storage means, based on a request from said information processing apparatus for information indicating the function status (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 14***, Tabata discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 11, and further teaches that said image processing functions include a print function for executing printing based on data from the information processing apparatus, a copy function and a facsimile function (column 4, line 65-column 6, line 61).

Regarding ***claim 15***, Tabata discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 11, and further teaches of printing means for printing on a sheet, wherein said printing means is used by one of the plural image processing functions (column 4, line 65-column 6, line 61, and column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 16***, Tabata discloses an information processing apparatus for transferring print data by communication with an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions, the image processing apparatus having a print function (see Figs. 1-4), the information processing apparatus comprising: generation means for generating print data to be transferred to the image

processing apparatus (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); acquisition means for acquiring, from said image processing apparatus, information indicating the function status of plural image processing functions (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); and display control means for executing a process of transferring the print data generated by said generating means to said image processing apparatus and displaying the function status of the plural image processing functions on a display unit based on the information acquired by said acquisition means (column 7, line 13-column 9, line 25), wherein, when a copy function included in the plurality of image processing functions obtains the print function, said information processing apparatus displays information indicating that the copy function is being executed and information showing that the print function based on the generated print data cannot be executed (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 17***, Tabata discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 16, and further teaches that said display control means is capable, based on the information acquired by said acquisition means, of displaying the function status of the plural image processing functions on a single image by graphics, text and animation (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 18***, Tabata discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 16, and further teaches that said display control means discriminates, based on the information acquired by said acquisition means, whether an image processing function of higher priority is executed in said image processing apparatus, and, in case of discrimination that a processing function of higher priority is executed, displays the function status of the image processing function of such high priority in an emphasized manner (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 19***, Tabata discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 16, and further teaches that said display control means displays a text indicating the function status of the image processing function of higher priority in an emphasized manner by a layout in a predetermined area of the display unit (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 20***, Tabata discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 16, and further teaches that said image processing functions include a print function for executing printing based on data from the information processing apparatus, a copy function and a facsimile function (column 4, line 65-column 6, line 61).

Regarding ***claim 21***, Tabata discloses a control method for an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions based on a print request from an information processing apparatus or an image processing request from an operation unit, said image processing apparatus having a print function (see Figs. 1-4), said control method comprising steps of: acquiring information indicating the function status of the plurality of image processing functions (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); managing the acquired information in unified manner in storage means (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); and monitoring the change in the function status indicated by the acquired information and renewing the information stored in the storage means in response to a change in the function status (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7), and transmitting information to the information processing apparatus when a copy function included in the plurality of image processing functions uses the print function (column 7, line 13-column 9, line 25), the information indicating that the copy function is being executed and information showing that the print function based on the generated print data

cannot be executed, such that the information can be displayed by the information processing apparatus (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 22***, Tabata discloses the method discussed above in claim 21, and further teaches of a step of informing said information processing apparatus of the information stored in said storage means, based on the print request from said information processing apparatus (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 23***, Tabata discloses the method discussed above in claim 21, and further teaches that the information stored in said storage means is informed to said information processing apparatus, based on a request from said information processing apparatus for information indicating the function status (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 24***, Tabata discloses the method discussed above in claim 21, and further teaches that said image processing functions include a print function for executing printing based on data from the information processing apparatus, a copy function and a facsimile function (column 4, line 65-column 6, line 61).

Regarding ***claim 25***, Tabata discloses the method discussed above in claim 21, and further teaches that said image processing apparatus includes printing means for printing on a sheet, wherein said printing means is used by one of the plural image processing functions (column 4, line 65-column 6, line 61).

Regarding ***claim 26***, Tabata discloses a status display method for an information processing apparatus for transferring print data by communication with an image processing

apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions (see Figs. 1-4), the method comprising steps of acquiring, from said image processing apparatus, information indicating the function status of plural image processing functions (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); and executing a process of transferring the generated print data to said image processing apparatus and displaying the function status of the plural image processing functions on a display unit based on the acquired information (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7), wherein, when a copy function included in the plurality of image processing functions obtains the print function (column 7, line 13-column 9, line 25), said information processing apparatus displays information indicating that the copy function is being executed and information showing that the print function based on the generated print data cannot be executed (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 27***, Tabata discloses the method discussed above in claim 26, and further teaches that the function status of the plurality of image processing functions can be displayed, based on the acquired information, on a single image by graphics, text and animation (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 28***, Tabata discloses the method discussed above in claim 26, and further teaches of discriminating, based on the acquired information, whether an image processing function of higher priority is executed in said image processing apparatus, and, in case of discrimination that a processing function of higher priority is executed, displaying the function status of the image processing function of such high priority in an emphasized manner (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 29***, Tabata discloses the method discussed above in claim 26, and further teaches that a text indicating the function status of the image processing function of higher priority is displayed in an emphasized manner by a layout in a predetermined area of the display unit (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 30***, Tabata discloses the method discussed above in claim 26, and further teaches that said image processing functions include a print function for executing printing based on data from the information processing apparatus, a copy function and a facsimile function (column 4, line 65-column 6, line 61).

Regarding ***claim 31***, Tabata discloses a program stored on a computer-readable medium for controlling an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions based on a print request from an information processing apparatus or an image processing request from an operation unit, said image processing apparatus having a print function (see Figs. 1-4), said program comprising: an acquisition step of acquiring information indicating the function status of the plural image processing functions (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); a management step of managing the information acquired in said acquisition step in unified manner in storage means (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); a control step of monitoring the change in the function status indicated by the information acquired by said acquisition step and renewing the information stored in said storage means in response to a change in the function status (column 7, line 13-column 9, line 25), and a transmitting step of transmitting information to the information processing apparatus when a copy function included in the plurality of image processing functions uses the print function (column 7, line 13-column 9, line 25), the

information indicating that the copy function is being executed, the information indicating that the print function based on the generated print data cannot be executed, such that the information can be displayed by the information processing apparatus (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 32***, Tabata discloses a program stored on a computer-readable medium for controlling an information processing apparatus for transferring print data by communication with an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions (see Figs. 1-4), the program comprising: a generation step of generating the print data to be transferred to said image processing apparatus (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); an acquisition step of acquiring, from said image processing apparatus, information indicating the function status of the plurality of image processing functions (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); and a control step of controlling a process of transferring the print data generated by said generation step to said image processing apparatus and displaying the function status of the plurality of image processing functions on a display unit based on the information acquired by said acquisition step (column 7, line 13-column 9, line 25), wherein, when a copy function included in the plurality of image processing functions obtains the print function, said information processing apparatus displays information indicating that the copy function is being executed and information showing that the print function based on the generated print data cannot be executed (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 33***, Tabata discloses the program stored on a computer-readable medium discussed above in claim 32, and further teaches that the function status of the plural

image processing functions can be displayed, based on the information acquired by the acquisition step, on a single image by graphics, text and animation (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 34***, Tabata discloses the program stored on a computer-readable medium discussed above in claim 32, and further teaches that said display control step discriminates, based on the information acquired in said acquisition step, whether an image processing function of higher priority is executed in said image processing apparatus, and, in case of discrimination that a processing function of higher priority is executed, displays the function status of the image processing function of such high priority in an emphasized manner (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 35***, Tabata discloses the program stored on a computer-readable medium discussed above in claim 32, and further teaches that said display control step displays a text indicating the function status of the image processing function of higher priority in an emphasized manner by a layout in a predetermined area of the display unit (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 36***, Tabata discloses the program stored on a computer-readable medium discussed above in claim 32, and further teaches that said image processing functions include a print function for executing printing based on data from the information processing apparatus, a copy function and a facsimile function (column 4, line 65-column 6, line 61).

Regarding ***claim 37***, Tabata discloses a computer-readable memory medium storing a program for controlling an information processing apparatus for transferring print data by communication with an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function

selected from among a plurality of image processing functions, the image processing apparatus having a print function (see Figs. 1-4), said program comprising: a generation step of generating the print data to be transferred to said image processing apparatus (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); an acquisition step of acquiring, from said image processing apparatus, information indicating the function status of the plurality of image processing functions (see Figs. 1-5, column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7); and a control step of controlling a process of transferring the print data generated by said generation step to said image processing apparatus and controlling a display for the function status of the plurality of image processing functions on a display unit based on the information acquired by said acquisition step (column 7, line 13-column 9, line 25), wherein, when a copy function included in the plurality of image processing functions obtains the print function, said information processing apparatus displays information indicating that the copy function is being executed and information showing that the print function based on the generated print data cannot be executed (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 38***, Tabata discloses the medium discussed above in claim 37, and further teaches that said display control step can display the function status of the plural image processing functions, based on the information acquired by the acquisition step, on a single image by graphics, text and animation (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 39***, Tabata discloses the medium discussed above in claim 37, and further teaches that said display control step discriminates, based on the information acquired in said acquisition step, whether an image processing function of higher priority is executed in said image processing apparatus, and, in case of discrimination that a processing function of higher

priority is executed, displays the function status of the image processing function of such high priority in an emphasized manner (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 40***, Tabata discloses the medium discussed above in claim 37, and further teaches that said display control step displays a text indicating the function status of the image processing function of higher priority in an emphasized manner by a layout in a predetermined area of the display unit (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 41***, Tabata discloses the medium discussed above in claim 37, and further teaches that said image processing functions include a print function for executing printing based on data from the information processing apparatus, a copy function and a facsimile function (column 4, line 65-column 6, line 61).

Regarding ***claim 42***, Tabata discloses an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions based on a print request from an information processing apparatus or an image processing request from an operation unit, said image processing apparatus having a print function that can be used by the plurality of image processing functions for printing data on a recording medium (see Figs. 1-4, column 4, line 65-column 8, line 19), said image processing apparatus comprising: transmission means for transmitting information to the information processing apparatus in the event that while one of the plurality of image processing functions uses the print function (column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7), another one of the plurality of image processing functions obtains the currently used print function, the information indicating that one image processing function cannot be executed, such that the information can be displayed by the information processing apparatus (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 43***, Tabata discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 42, and further teaches that the one image processing function is a function for printing data received from the information processing apparatus, and the another image processing function is a copy function or a facsimile function, wherein the copy function or the facsimile function obtains the currently used print function by an interrupt process, and wherein the information indicates that the function for printing data from the information processing apparatus cannot be executed (see Figs. 1-5, and 9, column 4, line 65-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 44***, Tabata discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 42, and further teaches that in the event that while one of the plurality of image processing functions uses the print function, another one of the plurality of image processing functions obtains the currently used print function, said transmission means transmits information indicating the another image processing function to the information processing apparatus (see Figs. 1-5, and 9, column 4, line 65-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 45***, Tabata discloses an image processing apparatus for transferring print data by communication with an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions, the image processing apparatus having a print function that can be used by the plurality of image processing functions for printing data on a recording medium (see Figs. 1-4, column 4, line 65-column 8, line 19), said image processing apparatus comprising: control means for controlling a process of transferring the print data generated by said generating means to the image processing apparatus and controlling a display for displaying the function status of the plurality of image processing functions on a display unit (column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7), wherein, when in place of one of

the plurality of image processing functions another one of the plurality of image processing functions obtains the print function, said information processing apparatus displays on the display unit information indicating that the one image processing function cannot be executed (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 46***, Tabata discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 45, and further teaches that the one image processing function is a function for printing data received from the information processing apparatus, and the another image processing function is a copy function or a facsimile function, wherein the copy function or the facsimile function obtains the currently used print function by an interrupt process, and wherein the information indicates that the function for printing data from the information processing apparatus cannot be executed (see Figs. 1-5, and 9, column 4, line 65-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 47***, Tabata discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 45, and further teaches that in the event that while one of the plurality of image processing functions uses the print function, another one of the plurality of image processing functions obtains the currently used print function, said control means controls the display unit to display information indicating the another image processing function (see Figs. 1-5, and 9, column 4, line 65-column 8, line 19).

Regarding ***claim 48***, Tabata discloses a method of operating an image processing apparatus executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions based on a print request from an information processing apparatus or an image processing request from an operation unit, said image processing apparatus having a print function that can be used by the plurality of image processing functions for printing data on a

recording medium (see Figs. 1-4, column 4, line 65-column 8, line 19), said method comprising: transmitting information to the information processing apparatus in the event that while one of the plurality of image processing functions uses the print function (column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7), another one of the plurality of image processing functions obtains the currently used print function, the information indicating that one image processing function cannot be executed, such that the information can be displayed by the information processing apparatus (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 49***, Tabata discloses a method of operating an image processing apparatus for transferring print data by communication with an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions, the image processing apparatus having a print function that can be used by the plurality of image processing functions for printing data on a recording medium (see Figs. 1-4, column 4, line 65-column 8, line 19), said method comprising: controlling a process of transferring the print data generated by said generating means to the image processing apparatus and controlling a display for displaying the function status of the plurality of image processing functions on a display unit (column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7), wherein, when in place of one of the plurality of image processing functions another one of the plurality of image processing functions obtains the print function, said information processing apparatus displays on the display unit information indicating that the one image processing function cannot be executed (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 50***, Tabata discloses a computer-readable medium storing a program for operating an image processing apparatus executing an image processing function selected from

among a plurality of image processing functions based on a print request from an information processing apparatus or an image processing request from an operation unit, said image processing apparatus having a print function that can be used by the plurality of image processing functions for printing data on a recording medium (see Figs. 1-4, column 4, line 65-column 8, line 19), said program comprising: transmitting information to the information processing apparatus in the event that while one of the plurality of image processing functions uses the print function (column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7), another one of the plurality of image processing functions obtains the currently used print function, the information indicating that one image processing function cannot be executed, such that the information can be displayed by the information processing apparatus (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Regarding ***claim 51***, Tabata discloses a computer-readable medium storing a program for operating an image processing apparatus for transferring print data by communication with an image processing apparatus for executing an image processing function selected from among a plurality of image processing functions, the image processing apparatus having a print function that can be used by the plurality of image processing functions for printing data on a recording medium (see Figs. 1-4, column 4, line 65-column 8, line 19), said program comprising: controlling a process of transferring the print data generated by said generating means to the image processing apparatus and controlling a display for displaying the function status of the plurality of image processing functions on a display unit (column 5, line 8-column 8, line 7), wherein, when in place of one of the plurality of image processing functions another one of the plurality of image processing functions obtains the print function, said information processing

apparatus displays on the display unit information indicating that the one image processing function cannot be executed (see Figs. 5 and 9, column 7, line 46-column 8, line 19, being "occupied" or "not-occupied").

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Fresk *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,421,135) discloses a system for allowing a walk-up copier user to interrupt a print job; and

Beaudet *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,511,150) discloses a copier/printer with improved productivity.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (571) 272-7410. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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